

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 08855 150536Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 EB-07
AID-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00
SSM-03 EUR-12 (ISO) W
----- 006103 /22

O 141657Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2525

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 8855

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EAID, LE
SUBJECT: VISIT OF LEBANESE PRESIDENTIAL EMISSARY GHASSAN TUEINI

REF: BEIRUT 8816

1. AFTER TALKING WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS, BRITISH AND DUTCH
AMBASSADORS AND OTHERS, WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL
COMMENTS TO MAKE RE DEPT'S MEETINGS WITH GHASSAN TUEINI
DELEGATION.

2. IN ADDITION TO REQUIREMENTS OF SITUATION, THERE IS A
POLITICAL IMPERATIVE FOR SPEED IN LEBANESE RECONSTRUCTION
EFFORT. PRESIDENT SARKIS IS COUNTING, INTER ALIA, ON A
COMPETENT AND RAPID EFFORT IN REPAIRING CIVIL WAR DAMAGE
AS ONE MEANS OF ESTABLISHING PROPER ATMOSPHERE FOR POLITICAL
RECONCILIATION AMONG LEBANESE PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT.
SARKIS' REPUTATION IS TO SOME EXTENT ON THE BLOCK AS, WITH
HIS NON-POLITICAL CABINET, WHICH OBVIOUSLY UNDER HIS
DIRECTION, THE BLAME FOR A POOR EFFORT AND PRAISE FOR A
GOOD EFFORT IS LIKELY TO FALL ON HIS SHOULDERS.
CONSEQUENTLY, IF RECONSTRUCTION PROCEEDS RAPIDLY AND
SUCCESSFULLY, PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN SARKIS WILL BE
STRENGTHENED TO THE ADVANTAGE OF ALL CONCERNED. TUEINI
EXPRESSED TO US DEC 11 BELIEF THAT LEBANON COULD SPEND
OVER \$1 BILLION WITHIN ONE YEAR ON RECONSTRUCTION. THIS
MAY BE UNREALISTIC, GIVEN INEVITABLE TIME LAGS IN PROGRAM
OF SUCH MAGNITUDE, BUT IT UNDERSCORES IMPORTANCE GOL
ATTACHES TO PROMPT VISIBLE PROGRESS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 08855 150536Z

3. AS WE HAVE REPORTED, WE DOUBT THAT THE LEBANESE DELEGATION WILL BE IN A POSITION TO OFFER PRECISION RE PROJECTS. I HAVE ASKED FOR AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEE IF WE CAN OBTAIN MORE DETAILS RE THEIR PLANS. WE CAN HELP THEM BY EXPLAINING WHAT WE NEED IN TERMS OF FACTUAL DATA TO ASSIST THEM. THERE IS NO QUESTION BUT THE NEED IS GREAT. ALTHOUGH THE GOL MAY HAVE EXAGGERATED IN SOME CASES SUCH AS THE NUMBER OF DISPLACED PERSONS, ETC., I TOURED THE CENTRAL CITY DEC 12 AND WAS HORRIFIED BY THE DESTRUCTION. THE STREETS HAVE BEEN CLEANED BUT RUBBLE AND CRUMBLING BUILDINGS ARE EVERYWHERE. I WOULD BE SURPRISED IF A GOOD DEAL OF THE AREA DID NOT HAVE TO BE COMPLETELY TORN DOWN AND REBUILT. WE WOULD THINK THE PORT COULD BE RESTORED TO A REASONABLE OPERATING CONDITION RELATIVELY QUICKLY. GOL HAS ALREADY ASKED FOR TENDERS TO CLEAR CRUMBLING STORE HOUSES.

4. AS DEPARTMENT WELL AWARE, GOL COUNTING ON US, AS IS LEBANESE PUBLIC, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OUR OFFER TO SARKIS LAST SEPTEMBER TO ASSIST RECONSTRUCTION EFFORT. GOL MAY EXPECT MORE THAN WE IN POSITION TO OFFER AND I DID MY BEST WITH GHASSAN TO EMPOWER HIS EXPECTATIONS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME REITERATING OUR DESIRE TO BE AS HELPFUL AS OUR RESOURCES WILL PERMIT. GOL, OF COURSE, IS LOOKING FOR ASSISTANCE FROM VARIETY OF SOURCES WHICH WE HAVE REPORTED.

5. WE WARNED TUEINI AGAINST EXCESSIVE EXPECTATIONS (REFTEL, PARA 2), BUT FROM PERSPECTIVE OUR POLICY OBJECTIVES IN LEBANON, IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL FOR SARKIS TO BE ABLE TO POINT TO SOME POSITIVE RESULTS FROM THIS VISIT. US CAN PLAY CATALYTIC ROLE THROUGH ITS OWN ASSISTANCE AND, PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANTLY, BY STIMULATING ARAB OIL COUNTRIES AND EEC COUNTRIES TO LIKEWISE MOVE QUICKLY ON ASSISTANCE TO LEBANON.

6. IN ADDITION TO AN ATTITUDE AS FORTHCOMING AS POSSIBLE, WE RECOMMEND THAT TUEINI BE ENCOURAGED TO ADDRESS QUESTION OF COORDINATION OF RELIEF AND
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 08855 150536Z

RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS. TUEINI HIMSELF MENTIONED NEED FOR A GOL ENTITY TO COORDINATE ALL FOREIGN AID REQUESTS AND OFFERS TO A RECENT VISITOR, AND WE READILY CONCUR. ABSENCE OF SUCH A BODY IN ITSELF WOULD LEAD TO DUPLICATION AND INEFFICIENT USE OF RESOURCES AVAILABLE.
HOUGHTON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE, CONCILIATION, VISITS, ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT08855
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760461-0271
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761242/aaaabkid.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BEIRUT 8816
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 OCT 2004 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF LEBANESE PRESIDENTIAL EMISSARY GHASSAN TUEINI
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, EAID, LE, (TUEINI, GHASSAN), (SARKIS, ELIAS)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006